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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/777,950	02/12/2004	Tommy Rodrigues	FDN-2797	7092

7590 04/05/2007
Attn: William J. Davis, Esq.
GAF MATERIALS CORPORATION
Legal Department, Building No. 10
1361 Alps Road
Wayne, NJ 07470

EXAMINER

GILBERT, WILLIAM V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3635

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/05/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/777,950	Applicant(s) RODRIGUES ET AL.	
	Examiner William V. Gilbert	Art Unit 3635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6-17,19,21-31,34,35 and 50-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2,6,7,32,33 and 36-49 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,8-17,19,21-31,34,35 and 50-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/29/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

This is a Final Office Action. Applicant cancelled Claims 4, 5, 18 and 20. Claims 2, 6, 7, 32, 33 and 36-49 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 3, 8-17, 19, 21-32, 34, 35, 50-52 are examined below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 8-12, 16, 17, 19, 21-23, 25-31, 34, 35 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bondoc et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,105,329) as in the action dated 29 September 2006.

Regarding Claims 1, Bondoc discloses a shingle (Figure 5, generally) with an anterior layer (1) and a posterior layer (15), the anterior layer having a head lap (Figure 1, element 3) and a butt (Figure 1, element 4), an alignment notch (Figure 1, element 6) and the shingle having at least one outer edge corner

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corresponding to the notch (element "A" from attached Figure 5 from Bondoc, below).

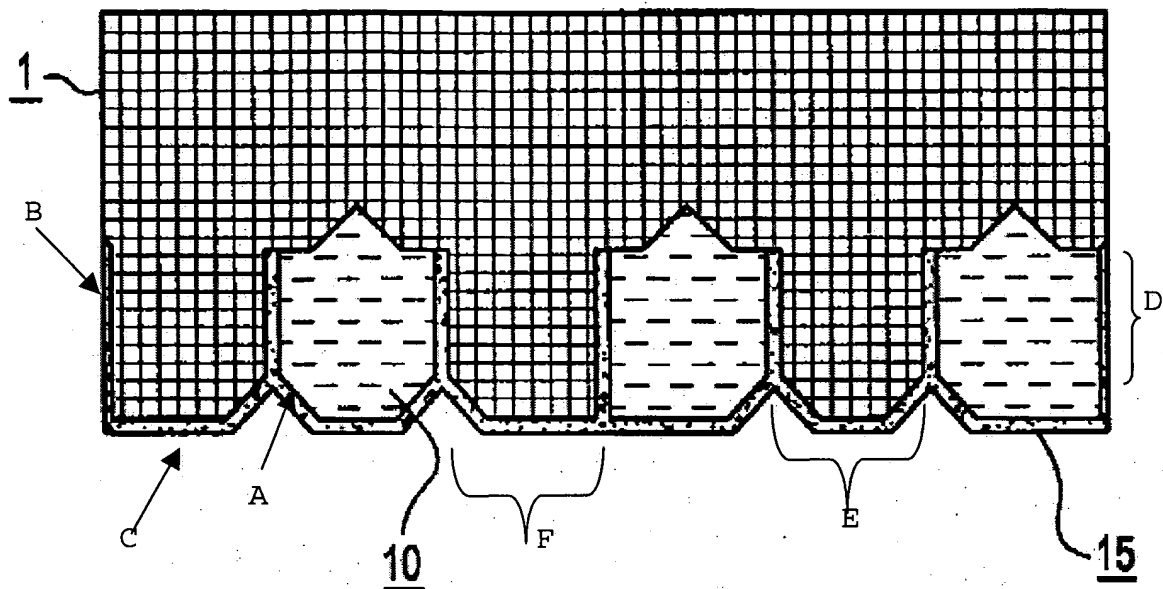


Figure 5 from Bondoc

Regarding Claim 3, the notch (6) has a triangle shape and a corner corresponds to a side of the triangle (element "A" from attached Figure 5 from Bondoc, above).

Regarding Claims 8, 29, 34, 35 and 52), Bondoc discloses a shingle with at least one layer (per Claim 29), a posterior layer (15, per Claims 8, 34, 35, 52) with a head lap (element "B" from attached Figure 5 from Bondoc, above, per Claim 8, 52) and tabs (element "C" from attached Figure 5 from Bondoc, above, per Claim 8, 52), an anterior layer positioned on the posterior

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layer (1, per Claims 8, 34, 35, 52), an anterior head lap (Figure 1, element 3, per Claims 8, 35, 52); an alignment notch (Figure 1, element 6, per Claims 8, 35, 52) and at least one anterior tab (Figure 1, element 2) positioned on the posterior tabs (per Claims 8, 52), and the anterior layer and posterior layer form a shingle having at least one outer edge corner that corresponds to the alignment notch (see "A" above). The phrases "formed from...length", per Claim 29, line 1, "formed from...layer", per Claim 34 line 3 and "formed from...length" per Claim 35, line 3, "formed from...layer" per Claim 52 line 3 are statements of the process of making the claimed invention and must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of being made in this manner, then it meets the claim.

Regarding Claim 9, the alignment notch (6) is triangular shape.

Regarding Claim 10, there are four posterior tabs (see Figure 4, area proximate element 20).

Regarding Claim 11, the anterior and posterior tabs have first and second breadths respectively, and the second breadth is greater than the first breadth (see Figure 5 generally).

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Regarding Claim 12, the anterior tab has granules of a first shade and the posterior tabs have a second shade (Abstract, lines 1-2 and 20-21; Column 4, lines 52-64).

Regarding Claim 16, the posterior tabs (element C above) extend beyond the anterior tab (2; see Figure 5, generally).

Regarding Claims 17, 19 and 21 the anterior head lap (Figure 9, area proximate element 40, per Claims 17, 19, 21) extends beyond the posterior head lap (Figure 9, area proximate element 44, per Claim 17) the anterior head lap edge aligns to a posterior head lap edge (Figure 9, element 48, see area proximate element 42 where dotted line represents how the two headlaps may align, per Claim 19) and the posterior head lap extends beyond the anterior head lap (element "D" from attached Figure 5 from Bondoc, above, where the posterior head lap extends beyond the anterior headlap, per Claim 21).

Regarding Claims 22 and 23, Bondoc discloses two anterior tabs (Figure 8, element 60 per Claim 22) and three anterior tabs (Figure 8, element 60 per Claim 23).

Regarding Claim 25, the anterior tab (2) has a corner that corresponds to the alignment notch (see area proximate element A from attached Figure 5 above).

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Regarding Claim 26, the posterior tabs (element "C" from attached Figure 5 from Bondoc, below) have corners (area proximate "A" above) that correspond to the alignment notch (6).

Regarding Claim 27, the anterior tab is positioned substantially centered on the posterior tab (element "E" from attached Figure 5 from Bondoc, above).

Regarding Claim 28, the anterior tab is positioned offset from the posterior tab (element "F" from attached Figure 5 from Bondoc, above).

Regarding Claim 30, the shingle has an anterior layer (1) and a posterior layer (15).

Regarding Claim 31, the phrase "formed from...length" per line 1 is a process for making the claimed invention and must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of being made in this manner, then it meets the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bondoc et al. in view of Elliott et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,421,976) and Stahl et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,305,138) as in the action dated 29 September 2006.

Regarding Claim 13, Bondoc discloses the claimed invention except a shadow band positioned at an interface between the posterior tabs and headlap and a shadow tip on the lower edge of the posterior tab of a third shade. Elliott discloses a shadow band (Figure 1, element 48) between the posterior headlap and tabs, and Stahl discloses shadowed tips (Figure 2, element 40; Column 3, lines 23-30). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art as a matter of design choice to use the shading patterns in Elliott and Stall with the shingle in Bondoc because the shadings are aesthetic and provide no structural limitation to the claimed invention.

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Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bondoc in view of Stahl as in the action dated 29 September 2006.

Regarding Claim 14, Bondoc discloses the claimed invention except a shadow tip on the lower edge of the posterior tab. Stahl discloses shadowed tips (Figure 2, element 40; Column 3, lines 23-30). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art as a matter of design choice to use the shading patterns in Stahl with the shingle in Bondoc because the shadings are aesthetic and provide no structural limitation to the claimed invention.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bondoc in view of Elliott as in the action dated 29 September 2006.

Regarding Claim 15, Bondoc discloses the claimed invention except a shadow band positioned at an interface between the posterior tabs and headlap. Elliott discloses a shadow band (Figure 1, element 48) between the posterior headlap and tabs (48). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art as a matter of design choice to use the shading patterns in Elliott with the

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shingle in Bondoc because the shadings are aesthetic and provide no structural limitation to the claimed invention.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bondoc as in the action dated 29 September 2006.

Regarding Claim 24, Bondoc discloses the claimed invention except the spacing of the posterior tabs. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art as a matter of design choice to make the shingle in Bondoc with these dimensions because Applicant failed to state a criticality for this spacing and the shingle in Bondoc is capable of being made in such a manner.

Claims 50 and 51 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bondoc as in the action dated 29 September 2006.

Regarding Claim 50, Bondoc does not disclose a method of installing a shingle by affixing a shingle to the roofing area, affixing another course to the roof by aligning the cut corner of one course with the alignment notch of the previous course, and repeating the above steps until the roof is completely covered. It would have been obvious at the time the invention

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was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to install the shingle in Bondoc in this manner because the shingle in Bondoc has the alignment notch (6) and the posterior tabs have a cut outer edge corner (A, above), and the edge corner and alignment notch correspond to act as an alignment means.

Regarding Claim 51, only the method of installing the shingle is claimed. The phrase, "formed from...length" line 2 is a process for making the claimed invention and must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of being made in the claimed manner, then it meets the claim.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims rejected under 102(b) have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's arguments filed 24 January 2007 regarding Claims 34, 35 and 52 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant makes an argument that the prior art of record improperly references a fraction between the dimension of

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the cutting cylinder and shingle. Examiner responds that **any** dimension between the shingle and cutting cylinder results in a fractional relationship. This is true if the relationship is one-to-one or one-to-five.

Applicant's correction of the claim objections and issues regarding the Information Disclosure Statement have been duly noted.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated

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from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William V. Gilbert whose telephone number is 571.272.9055. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 08:00 to 17:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman can be reached on 571.272.6842. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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36 Mar 07


Carl D. Friedman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600